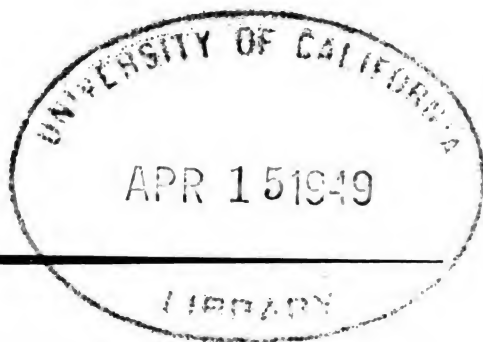


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MILITARY ESCORTS

Return of World War II Dead



RTMENTS OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY, AND THE AIR FORCE, AND THE
COAST GUARD SERVICE

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY,
AND THE AIR FORCE,
AND THE COAST GUARD SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C., 5 October 1948.

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[AG 461 (9 Apr 48)]

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DISTRIBUTION :

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E.

For explanation of distribution formula, see AFR 5-4.

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MILITARY ESCORTS

RETURN OF WORLD WAR II DEAD

This publication supersedes War Department Pamphlet 21-40, Navy Department Pamphlet NAV PERS 15781, Coast Guard Pamphlet CG 195, 16 July 1947

1. Scope

The provisions of this pamphlet apply to all branches of the United States Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard Service and others as provided under Public Law 383—79th Congress.

2. General

a. The ultimate delivery of the remains of World War II dead to next-of-kin will be accomplished through the New York and San Francisco Ports of Embarkation and American Graves Registration Divisions (Distribution Centers) strategically located in Army General and Quartermaster Depots and in the San Francisco and New York Ports of Embarkation.

b. Movement of remains from ports to distribution centers will be by rail passenger service, in train load, carload, and less than carload lots, and in individual movement by other means of transportation.

c. Shipment from distribution centers to final destinations where remains are to be released to next-of-kin will be made individually by rail pas-

senger service or by suitable motor transportation, whichever is more practicable.

d. Remains of military deceased returned to the United States for final burial will be accompanied by qualified escorts, in grades as hereinafter indicated, while in transit from distribution centers to the place of final interment; military escorts accompanying the remains of civilian decedents will be in grades to be determined by the distribution center commander based on the circumstances of each case.

3. Distribution Centers

The following tabulation lists the twelve distribution centers and the areas served by each.

<i>Distribution center</i>	<i>Army area</i>	<i>Air Defense Command</i>	<i>Naval District</i>	<i>Coast Guard District</i>
Brooklyn Army Base (NYPE)-----	I	1st AF	III	III
Schenectady General Depot-----	I	1st AF	III	III
Philadelphia QM Depot--	II	1st AF	IV	IV
Columbus General Depot-----	II	1st AF	IX	IX
Charlotte QM Depot--	III	14th AF	V	V
Atlanta General Depot--	III	14th AF	VI	VII
Memphis General Depot-----	III	14th AF	NATTC	II
Fort Worth QM Depot--	IV	14th AF	VIII	VIII
Kansas City QM Depot--	V	10th AF	IX	IX
Chicago QM Depot---	V	10th AF	IX	IX
Utah General Depot---	VI	4th AF	XII	XII
Oakland Army Base (SFPE)-----	VI	4th AF	XII	XII

4. Escorts

a. General. (1) The nature of the mission of escorts is one requiring great tact and diplomacy in

rendering every possible assistance to next-of-kin during their bereavement.

(2) Escorts, in most instances, will be the only personal contact between the Services and next-of-kin. Consequently, the success or failure of the Return of World War II Dead Program depends largely upon impressions made by escorts on next-of-kin, and the degree of human understanding with which they discharge their duties. Any adverse criticism in the conduct or competency of escorts in the fulfillment of their mission will reflect directly on the Services as a whole.

b. Selection. Every escort will possess the character, personality, military bearing, and ability to represent the United States Government in this important assignment.

c. Training. Escorts will be well trained. Since the first shipment of remains under the Return of World War II Dead Program arrived at United States ports late in 1947, and the program is to be completed within a subsequent period of approximately 24 months, training will be phased to insure an adequate supply of trained escorts at all times.

d. Uniforms and appearance. The appearance of escorts, including both personal cleanliness and neatness of uniforms, will be beyond reproach. Any deviation from required standards may very well be interpreted as disrespect toward the deceased. Uniforms prescribed by the appropriate Service will be worn by escorts. These uniforms will be augmented by a black mourning brassard to be placed around the left sleeve of the outer garment above the elbow when the uniforms are worn on escort duty.

e. Requirements. Information concerning numbers, grade, sex, race, and branch of service of escorts required will be furnished escort detachment commander or appropriate liaison officer not later than 24 hours after extract of radiogram passenger list is received by distribution centers from the Office of The Quartermaster General.

5. Responsibilities

In executing the provisions of this pamphlet it is directed that—

a. Army commanders (ZI)—

(1) Furnish personnel in numbers, grades, sex, and race as necessary to distribution centers for escorting the remains of Army personnel other than Air Force deceased. Grades of escorts, when possible, will be equal to or higher than the grade of the deceased (enlisted escorts will be of the first three grades if practicable). In no case will the grade be lower than as specified in the following categories:

(a) Field grade officers for deceased field grade officers.

(b) Company grade officers for deceased company grade officers.

(c) Noncommissioned officers for all deceased enlisted personnel.

(2) Appoint a staff agency to direct and control the supply of military escorts to distribution centers, furnishing The Quartermaster General with information relating thereto.

(3) Designate potential escort instructors to attend a program of instructor training at the Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia. Attend-

ance will be on a quota basis to be established by The Quartermaster General.

(4) Properly train escorts (Army, Air Force, and administrative and technical services).

(5) Upon the request of commanders of ports located in their army area, furnish train commanders and train guards to the Transportation Corps for those periods required to accomplish the delivery by rail passenger service of train load, carload, and less than carload lots, and individual movements by other means of transportation, to the distribution centers. These guards need not be of grades corresponding to those held by the deceased which they accompany and need not receive special training. They must, however, be carefully selected.

(6) Assume administrative and operational control over escorts of all Services, including Coast Guard personnel, while on duty with distribution centers except that, during the period escorts are accompanying the remains to places of interment and returning to proper stations, the distribution center commanders will exercise complete jurisdiction on technical matters. This former function will be implemented through the assignment to each distribution center by army commanders of an escort detachment commander and such enlisted personnel as may be required to carry out this responsibility. Matters pertaining to disciplinary action on Navy, Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard personnel will be referred to the local commander of the appropriate Service for necessary disposition.

(7) Establish liaison with each distribution center serving the army area. The escort detachment

commander mentioned in (6) above may be charged with this duty when practicable.

(8) Provide or arrange for adequate housing and messing accommodations, together with laundry and dry-cleaning facilities, for escorts at the following locations:

<i>Location of quarters</i>	<i>Type of escort personnel</i>	<i>Distribution center</i>
Ft. Sheridan, Ill.	Army, Air Force.	Chicago QM Depot.
Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Columbus General Depot.

(9) Provide necessary personnel to operate messing and housekeeping facilities at all installations listed under "Location of quarters" in (8) above, except where such responsibility is specifically charged herein to other agencies.

b. The Chief of Staff, United States Air Force—

(1) Furnish personnel in numbers, grades, sex, and race as necessary to distribution centers for escorting Air Force deceased. Grades of escorts, when possible, will be equal to or higher than the grade of the deceased (enlisted escorts will be of the first three grades if practicable). In no case will the grade be lower than as specified in *a* (1) (*a*) through (*c*) above.

(2) Appoint a staff agency to direct and control the supply of Air Force escorts to distribution centers, furnishing The Quartermaster General with information relating thereto.

(3) Designate potential escort instructors to attend a program of instructor training at the Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia, if so de-

sired. Attendance will be on a quota basis to be established by The Quartermaster General.

(4) Furnish a proportionate share, as determined by the Department of the Army, of the train commanders and train guards.

c. The Quartermaster General—

(1) Determine training doctrine of escorts, initiate a program of instructor training at the Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia, and establish a quota basis for attendance, advising each Service concerned accordingly.

(2) Through each distribution center commander—

(a) Furnish requirements for escorts to escort detachment commander or appropriate liaison officer by grade, race, sex, and branch of service not later than 24 hours after extract of radiogram passenger list is received from the Office of The Quartermaster General. The approximate dates that escorts are to report for duty at the distribution center will be specified.

(b) Provide or arrange for adequate housing and messing accommodations, together with laundry and dry-cleaning facilities, for escorts at the following locations:

<i>Location of quarters</i>	<i>Type of escort personnel</i>	<i>Distribution center</i>
Schenectady General Depot, New York.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Schenectady General Depot.
Memphis Municipal Airport, Tenn.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Memphis General Depot.

<i>Location of quarters</i>	<i>Type of escort personnel</i>	<i>Distribution center</i>
Kansas City QM Depot, Mo	Army, Air Force Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Kansas City QM Depot.
Utah General Depot, Utah.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Utah General Depot.
Morris Field, N. C.	Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Charlotte QM Depot.
Schuylkill Arsenal.	Army, Air Force--	Philadelphia QM Depot.
Fort Worth QM Depot, Texas.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Fort Worth QM Depot.
Atlanta General Depot.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Atlanta General Depot.

(c) Conduct final screening of all escorts.

(d) Provide arm brassards specified in paragraph 4d.

(e) Assume responsibility and control over escorts of all Services, including Coast Guard personnel, on matters of a technical nature, during the period that escorts are accompanying the casketed remains to places of interment and returning to the distribution center.

d. The Chief of Transportation—

(1) Through the port commanders, and at least 30 days prior to the date actually required, request the army commander within whose area the port is located to furnish train commanders and train guards for those periods required to deliver the

remains to the distribution centers. Requests will specify the estimated numbers of train commanders and train guards required and the approximate date that such personnel will report for duty at the port. One guard will be required per car for carload shipments. However, for trainload shipments to one destination, a commissioned officer as train commander and from three to five guards per train will be required, depending upon the number of cars in the train. Train commanders and train guards will be instructed in their specific duties while en route from port to distribution center and return.

(2) Arrange for movement of remains (less than carload, carload, or trainload shipments, whichever is more practicable) from the New York and San Francisco Ports of Embarkation to AGRS distribution centers, and also arrange for the individual movement of remains by rail passenger service or motor vehicle from AGRS distribution centers to the point of final acceptance by the next-of-kin or other authorized consignee.

(3) Provide or arrange for adequate housing and messing accommodations including messing and housekeeping personnel, together with laundry and dry-cleaning facilities, for escorts and train guards at the following locations:

<i>Location of quarters</i>	<i>Type of escort personnel</i>	<i>Distribution center</i>
Brooklyn Army Base, N. Y.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Brooklyn Army Base (NYPE).
Oakland Army Base, Calif.	Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Oakland Army Base (SFPE).

e. The Bureau of Naval Personnel—

(1) Assign a Navy liaison officer and a nucleus of trained enlisted escorts to each distribution center on permanent duty orders. The Navy liaison officers will maintain liaison with commandants of Naval districts regarding Navy personnel matters, and coordinate and control, under the supervision of the escort detachment commander, the supply of trained Navy escorts required to augment those permanently assigned for escorting Navy deceased. Grades of all Navy escorts will be on the basis of—

(a) *Officers*—Grades equal to or higher than those of the deceased officers.

(b) *Enlisted personnel*—Chief or First Class Petty Officers for all deceased enlisted personnel.

The Quartermaster General will be furnished information relating to the above.

(2) Designate potential escort instructors to attend a program of instructor training at the Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia. Attendance will be on a quota basis to be established by The Quartermaster General.

(3) Properly train personnel in sufficient numbers to insure an adequate supply of carefully selected and well-trained escorts at all times.

(4) Provide or arrange for adequate housing and messing accommodations including messing and housekeeping personnel, together with laundry and dry-cleaning facilities, for escorts at the following locations:

<i>Location of quarters</i>	<i>Type of escort personnel</i>	<i>Distribution center</i>
Philadelphia Naval Base, Pa.	Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Philadelphia QM Depot.
Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill.	Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.	Chicago QM Depot

f. The Commandant, Marine Corps—

(1) Assign personnel in numbers, grades, race, and sex on dates requested by the Army detachment commander of each distribution center or through appropriate liaison officer for escorting Marine Corps deceased. Grades of escorts will be on the basis of—

(a) *Officers*—Grades equal to or higher than those of deceased officers.

(b) *Enlisted personnel*—Grades equal to or higher than those of deceased enlisted personnel (escorts to be of first four enlisted grades).

(2) Appoint a staff agency to direct and control the supply of military escorts to distribution centers, furnishing The Quartermaster General with information relating thereto.

(3) Designate potential escort instructors to attend a program of instructor training at the Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia. Attendance will be on a quota basis to be established by The Quartermaster General.

(4) Properly train personnel in sufficient numbers to insure an adequate supply of carefully selected and well-trained escorts at all times.

g. The Commandant, Coast Guard, through each Continental Coast Guard District—

(1) Assign personnel in numbers, grades, race, and sex on dates requested by the Army detachment

commander of each distribution center or through appropriate liaison officer for escorting Coast Guard deceased. Grades of escorts will be determined on the same basis as indicated for personnel to be furnished by Naval districts (*e*(1) (*a*) and (*b*) above).

(2) Appoint a staff agency to direct and control the supply of military escorts to distribution centers, furnishing The Quartermaster General with information relating thereto.

(3) Designate potential escort instructors to attend a program of instructor training at the Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia. Attendance will be on a quota basis to be established by The Quartermaster General.

(4) Properly train personnel in sufficient numbers to insure an adequate supply of carefully selected and well-trained escorts at all times.

6. Authorized Expenditures

Instructions relative to the appropriate expenditures chargeable to the Return of World War II Dead Program appropriation will be contained in separate communications.

7. Correspondence

Direct correspondence is authorized between all staff and operating echelons concerned of the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of the Air Force, and the Coast Guard.